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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **UPDATE STAKEHOLDERS ON US\$2.2M FOR NAP PROCESS- CEJ URGES GOVT**

Centre for Environment Justice- CEJ has urged Government to update stakeholders on the current status of the National Adaptation Plan- NAP process. CEJ Head of Programmes Ricky Kalaluka says CEJ is aware that the Zambian Government secured US\$2.2 million grant from the Green Climate Fund's -GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme in April 2020.

In a press statement, Mr. Kalaluka says the money was to support development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). He says the Government initiated the process in March 2021 and is working towards finalizing the plan in the first quarter of 2023. The CEJ Head of Programmes says the Global Water Partnership worked with the Zambian Government to secure the funding and will continue to support the NAP during 2021 – 2022.

Mr. Kalaluka adds that the NAP process will guide the Zambian government in taking action against the current and forecast negative impacts of climate change on the country's economy, environment, and society. He stresses that Climate Change adaptation is fundamental for building resilient socio-economic and ecological systems. "It is an important part of efforts to implement not only the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, but also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," Mr. Kalaluka said.

The CEJ Head of Programmes stated that Climate Change had wide-ranging effects on the environment and on socio-economic and related sectors, including water resources, agriculture and food security, human health, forestry, terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. "Already, Zambia is experiencing droughts, flash floods, extreme temperatures, and dry spells due to climate change," he said.

Mr. Kalaluka further stated that the current NAP process has five (5) goals.

"The NAP builds on previous adaptation planning that, since 2004, has assisted the government in prioritizing responses such as promoting better land management, diversifying crops and livestock to improve food security, and climate-proofing sanitation in urban areas," he said.

Mr. Kalaluka said one of the main goals of the 2021 – 2023 NAP development process was to strengthen institutional coordination and collaboration for adaptation planning in Zambia.

"The National Policy on Climate Change provides for comprehensive national-level coordinating arrangements for climate change," the CEJ Head of Programmes said.

He however, said there were gaps in terms of cross-sectoral linkages and processes related to national adaptation planning. "In addition, there is lack of clarity about how adaptation will be coordinated at subnational levels, such as provinces, districts, and wards," Mr. Kalaluka said.

He explained that the other goal among the five (5) goals was the establishment of a system of integrating climate change adaptation in plans and budgets.

"Currently, climate change adaptation is not mainstreamed into national and subnational development plans and budgeting in Zambia," Mr. Kalaluka said. He revealed that the key reason for this was the lack of guidelines and a clear process for including climate change adaptation in national and sub-national planning and budgeting.

"CEJ therefore calls for government to engage with CSOs and other stakeholders to provide input into the NAP process so that there is clarity about how adaptation will be coordinated at subnational levels, such as provinces, districts and wards in the new dawn administration," Mr. Kalaluka said.

**Issued By:**

Ricky Kalaluka (Mr.)  
Head of Programmes  
Centre for Environment Justice